

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

USINFO WASHDC

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON ENG

ALL NATO CAPITALS

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

USLOSACLANT NORFOLK VA

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER

USNMR SHAPE BE

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MPOL, NATO, DPC

SUBJECT: EUROGROUP COMMUNIQUE, MAY 17, 1978

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1. THERE FOLLOWS IN PARA 2 BELOW THE TEXT OF THE
EUROGROUP COMMUNIQUE.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

- 1. THE EUROGROUP (BELGIUM, DENMARK, ITALY, GERMANY,
GREECE, LUXEMBOURG, NETHERLANDS, NORWAY, PORTUGAL, TURKEY,
UNITED KINGDOM) HELD ITS REGULAR SPRING MEETING IN MINIS-
TERIAL SESSION ON 17 MAY 1978 AT NATO HEADQUARTERS UNDER
THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF MINISTER WILLEM SCHOLTEN, MINISTER
OF DEFENCE OF THE NETHERLANDS. THE EUROGROUP IS NOW IN
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ITS TENTH YEAR.

- 2. IN A WIDE-RANGING EXCHANGE OF VIEWS MINISTERS DIS-
CUSSED A NUMBER OF ISSUES OF COMMON INTEREST. THEY UNDER-
LINED THE IMPORTANCE WHICH THEY ATTACH TO THE FORTHCOMING
NATO MINISTERIAL SESSIONS IN WASHINGTON WITH THE PARTICI-
PATION OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT AS A MEANS OF

STRENGTHENING FURTHER THE SOLIDARITY AND COHESION OF THE ALLIANCE.

- 3. MINISTERS REAFFIRMED THEIR STRONG SUPPORT FOR NEGOTIATIONS AIMED AT REDUCING TENSION. THEY CONCURRED THAT EQUITABLE AND VERIFIABLE MEASURES OF DISARMAMENT AND ARMS CONTROL REMAIN AN IMPORTANT FEATURE OF THE ALLIANCE'S OVERALL SECURITY POLICY. THEY STRESSED THEIR COMMITMENT TO THE PURSUIT OF DETENTE.

- 4. IN THIS CONTEXT MINISTERS REITERATED THE IMPORTANCE WHICH THEY ATTACH TO A POSITIVE OUTCOME OF THE NEGOTIATIONS ON MUTUAL AND BALANCED FORCE REDUCTIONS WHICH WILL MAINTAIN THE SECURITY OF THE ALLIANCE. THEY ALSO EXPRESSED THEIR FULL SUPPORT FOR THE EFFORTS OF THE UNITED STATES IN CONSULTATION WITH ITS ALLIES TO REACH A FURTHER AGREEMENT WITH THE USSR ON THE LIMITATION OF STRATEGIC ARMS.

- 5. AT THE SAME TIME, IN CONSIDERING THE MILITARY BALANCE IN EUROPE, MINISTERS EXPRESSED THEIR CONCERN AT THE GROWING MILITARY STRENGTH OF THE WARSAW PACT, WHICH IS BEING INCREASED FAR BEYOND WHAT IS NEEDED FOR DEFENSIVE PURPOSES. AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND THEY STRESSED THE NEED TO ENSURE THAT NATO MAINTAINS AN ADEQUATE DEFENCE CAPABILITY ALLIANCE-WIDE.

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- 6. TO THIS END MINISTERS RECALLED THAT EUROGROUP COUNTRIES CONCERNED HAD MADE A SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE MEASURES ANNOUNCED LAST DECEMBER FOR SHORT TERM IMPROVEMENTS IN SELECTED AREAS (ANTI-ARMOUR; WAR RESERVE STOCKS; AND READINESS AND REINFORCEMENT). THEY AGREED THAT, WHILE THIS EFFORT HAD IMPROVED NATO'S DEFENCE CAPABILITIES, THE RESPONSE OF THE ALLIES TO THE LONG TERM DEFENCE PROGRAMME IS OF CRUCIAL IMPORTANCE TO MEET THE CHANGING DEFENCE NEEDS OF THE 1980S. MINISTERS CONCERNED ACCORDINGLY EXPRESSED THEIR RESOLVE TO MAKE THE FULLEST POSSIBLE EFFORT TO ENABLE THE ALLIANCE TO ACHIEVE A POSITIVE OUTCOME.

- 7. MINISTERS RECALLED THAT EUROGROUP HAD RECOGNISED THE INDEPENDENT EUROPEAN PROGRAMME GROUP (IEPG) AS THE MAIN EUROPEAN FORUM FOR IMPROVING CO-OPERATION IN THE DEFENCE EQUIPMENT FIELD. THEY THEREFORE WELCOMED THE FACT THAT DISCUSSIONS HAD RECENTLY TAKEN PLACE BETWEEN THE IEPG COUNTRIES AND THE NORTH AMERICAN ALLIES IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE NATO CONFERENCE OF NATIONAL ARMAMENTS DIRECTORS ON ISSUES RELATED TO THE TRANSATLANTIC DIALOGUE ON EQUIPMENT MATTERS.

- 8. THE REPORTS OF THE SEVEN SUBGROUPS (EURCOM:BATTLE-FIELD COMMUNICATIONS; EUROLOG:LOGISTIC CO-OPERATION; EUROLONGTERM:LONG TERM PLANNING; EUROMED:MEDICAL SERVICES; EURNAD:EQUIPMENT COLLABORATION; EUROSTRUCTURE:FORCE STRUCTURE; EURO/NATOTRAINING:CO-OPERATIVE TRAINING) OF EUROGROUP WERE CONSIDERED BY MINISTERS. THEY REAFFIRMED THEIR BELIEF IN THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PRACTICAL WORK OF THESE SUBGROUPS WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF INCREASING CO-OPERATION AND MAKING THE BEST POSSIBLE USE OF AVAILABLE

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RESOURCES. THEY WELCOMED THE CONTINUING PROGRESS BEING MADE. IN PARTICULAR THEY NOTED THAT COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING IN THE F16 PROJECT INTEND TO UNDERTAKE JOINT LOGISTIC SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS IN LINE WITH EUROLOG'S CRITERIA; AND THAT EUROGROUP COUNTRIES HAVE AGREED ON ARRANGEMENTS FOR JOINT JET PILOT TRAINING.

- 9. MINISTERS ALSO NOTED THAT WORK WAS PROCEEDING IN EUROLONGTERM, IN PARTICULAR ON A NUMBER OF TACTICAL CONCEPTS AND SUBCONCEPTS; AND THAT EUROMED WAS CONTINUING ITS WORK AIMED AT PROMOTING CLOSER CO-OPERATION BETWEEN

THE MEDICAL SERVICES OF EUROGROUP COUNTRIES IN THE
NORTHERN ARMY GROUP (NORTHAG) AREA. THEY TOOK NOTE THAT
EUROCOM WAS PLAYING A FULL PART IN EFFORTS TO ENSURE THE
GREATEST POSSIBLE INTEROPERABILITY BETWEEN TACTICAL AREA
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COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS; AND THAT EURONAD HAD CONTINUED TO
MONITOR DEVELOPMENTS IN THE EQUIPMENT FIELD. MINISTERS
ALSO HAD A PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION ON THE REPORT OF
EUROSTRUCTURE ON ARMY ORGANISATION.

- 10. THE NEXT MEETING OF EUROGROUP IN MINISTERIAL
SESSION WILL TAKE PLACE TOWARDS THE END OF THIS YEAR.

END TEXT.

3. COMMENT: THE AGREEMENT ON JOINT JET PILOT TRAINING
ARRANGEMENTS DOES REFER TO TRAINING IN THE US IN THE
SHORT TERM. END COMMENT.BENNETT

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